

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 46-50 and 53-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 40-45 are canceled and claims 46-50 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 46-50 can be found, for example, in original claims 46-50. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25 and 53-57 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

A. **Claims 40-42**

The Office Action rejects claims 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over U.S. Patent No. 6,355,311 to Tsujita et al. By this Amendment, claims 40-42 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. **Claims 43 and 44**

The Office Action rejects claims 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over U.S. Patent No. 5,516,519 to Oka et al. By this Amendment, claims 43 and 44 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

C. **Claim 45**

The Office Action rejects claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over U.S. Patent No. 3,274,052 to Yaffe et al. By this Amendment, claim 45 is canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 45-50 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 45 is canceled, rendering the rejection moot as to that claim. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action asserts that claims 46-50 are indefinite for reciting "penetrate/disperse for the surface." By this Amendment, claims 46-50 are amended to recite "penetrate/disperse from the surface."

The Office Action asserts that claim 47 are indefinite for reciting "glass transition temperature or the resin." By this Amendment, claim 47 is amended to recite "glass transition temperature of the resin."

For the foregoing reasons, claims 46-50 are definite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

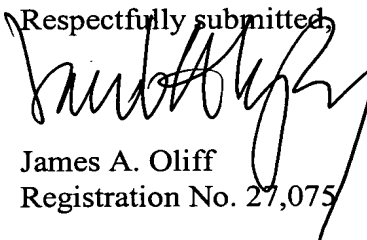
The Office Action objects to claims 53-57 as depending from rejected base claims. For the reasons set forth above, the base claims from which claims 53-57 depend are allowable. Thus, claims 53-57 are also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 46-50 and 53-57 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jacob A. Doughty
Registration No. 46,671

JAO:JAD/hs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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